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ABSTRACT

Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics, Bureau of the Census, and other sources, this pamphlet presents current information on community college students; college outcomes and impact; community college staff, governance, and expenditures; and tuition and financial aid. In addition, trends in enrollments, numbers of institutions, full-/part-time employment status of faculty, and Pell Grant awards are illustrated. Selected highlights include the following: (1) there are approximately 1,100 community colleges in the United States; (2) community colleges enroll 44% of the nation's undergraduates and 49% of all first-time freshmen; (3) about 47% of all minorities in college attend community colleges; (4) more than half of higher education students with disabilities attend public community colleges; (5) women make up about 58% of community college enrollments; (6) the average age of a community college student is 29; (7) enrollment ranges from 200 to 100,000 students; (8) the most popular fields of study are liberal studies/humanities, business, health professions, engineering-related technologies, and protective services; (9) part-time students greatly outnumber full-time students; (10) the five most popular programs are dental hygiene, nuclear medicine technician, nursing, physical therapy, and robotics/automated manufacturing; (11) a worker with an associate degree earns approximately $11,589 more than a worker with a high school education; (12) 65% of community college faculty are employed part time; (13) women make up 42% of community college faculty nationwide, compared to 29% at four-year institutions; (14) sources of community college revenue include state funding, tuition and fees, local governments, sales and services, federal government, private gifts, grants, and contracts, and endowments; and (15) the average annual tuition and required fees at public community colleges is $1,114 compared to $2,543 at four-year colleges. (KP)

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Pocket Profile Community Colleges:

1995-1996

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Community Colleges: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Community colleges, a purely American innovation, have served the nation for nearly 100 years. Around 1900, the lack of academic preparation of many university students led William Rainey Harper and other prominent education leaders to advocate separating the first two years of higher education from the university setting. In 1901, the first recorded public two-year college was born—Joliet Junior College in Joliet, Illinois.

The national network of community colleges today numbers approximately 1,100 institutions, found in every state. In 1992, these colleges enrolled 5.7 million credit students and another five million non-credit students. The colleges enroll 44 percent of the nation's undergraduates and 49 percent of all first-time freshmen. Most public community colleges offer three types of programs: college transfer, vocational-technical, and community service.

Fall Headcount Enrollment by Type of Institution: 1975 to 1992

Year	Community College	Four-Year College
1975	3,970,119	7,214,740
1980	4,526,287	7,570,608
1985	4,531,077	7,715,978
1990	5,240,083	8,578,554
1992	5,723,244	8,767,982

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

Number of Community Colleges by Control of Institution: 1900 to 1991(1)

Year	Public	Independent	Total
1900	0	8	8
1915	19	55	74
1921	70	137	207
1925	136	189	325
1930	178	258	436
1935	223	309	532
1940	258	317	575
1945	261	323	584
1950	337	311	648
1955	338	260	598
1960	390	273	663
1965	503	268	771
1970	847	244	1,091
1975	1,014	216	1,230
1980	1,049	182	1,231
1985	1,068	154 (2)	1,222
1990	1,282	183	1,465
1991	1,291	181	1,472

Source: AACC Annual Fall Survey
(1) AACC historical data includes branch campuses of colleges and AA degree granting university campuses
(2) Decrease in number of independent colleges is due to differences in data collection procedures in the mid 1980's

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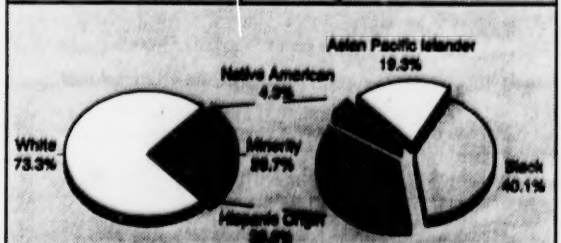
Who's Coming to Community Colleges

If there is anything typical about community college students, it is that they are atypical. They come, in astounding numbers, from all age groups, ethnic groups, and backgrounds. Public community college students make up the largest sector in higher education in the United States—37 percent.

With their emphasis on open admission and accessibility, community colleges serve many who otherwise could not continue their education, including growing numbers from underserved populations. About 47 percent of all minorities in college attend community colleges, and more than half of higher education students with disabilities attend public community colleges.

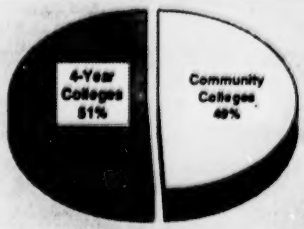
Flexible scheduling and low tuition attract many students to attend classes part-time while maintaining jobs. In fact, nearly two-thirds of community college students are older than the traditional college age of 21.

Minority Student Enrollment in Community Colleges: 1992



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

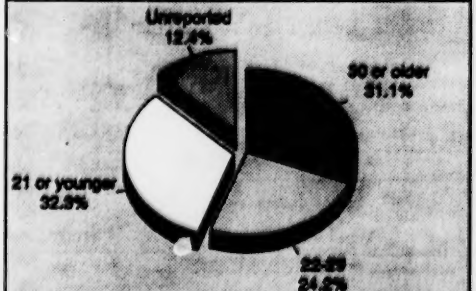
First-Time Freshmen in Higher Education: 1992



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

- Of the nearly 2.3 million 1992 first-time freshmen, approximately 50 percent attended a community college.
- During the 1991–92 academic year, 39 percent (5.7 million) of the nation's college students were enrolled in community colleges.
- Women make up 58 percent of the enrollment at community colleges.
- The average age of a community college student is 29.
- Community colleges range in enrollment from 200 students to over 100,000 students.

Community College Enrollment by Age: 1992



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

The Community College Impact

People attend community colleges for a variety of reasons. Although some students intend to transfer to a four-year college or university, others enroll to earn technical degrees, to prepare for job entry, to upgrade their career or skills, to develop basic remedial skills, and for personal interests. Many are the first member of their families to enroll in higher education. These students tend to be older, have family and job responsibilities, and attend college part-time.

The number of associate degrees they award is only one important measure of community colleges' impact. Success is also defined by such indicators as transfer rates, student goal attainment and satisfaction, job placement rate, and employer satisfaction.

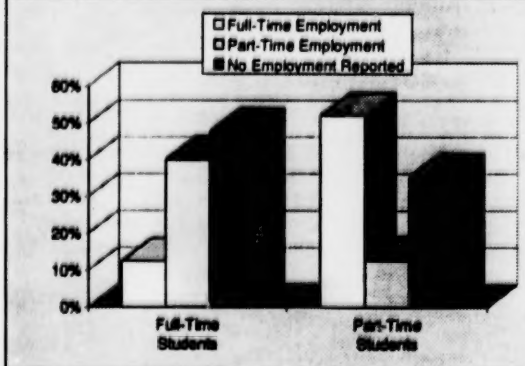
Community colleges are key players in training the workforce of the future. Teaming up with business and industry, community colleges train and retrain thousands of employees annually, providing an invaluable economic resource to local communities.

Number of Associate Degrees in Five Most Popular Fields of Study: 1991-92

Liberal/general studies & humanities	154,594
Business management & admin. services	93,762
Health professions & related sciences	79,453
Engineering-related technologies	35,861
Protective services	15,117

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

Employment Status of Community College Students: 1992



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1994

Community College Involvement in Workforce Training: 1991-92

Percent of Schools Offering Workforce Training: 96%

Subject Areas	Percent of Employees Receiving Training
Job-specific technical training	20.2%
Computer related	18.6%
Supervision/management	14.9%
Workplace literacy	9.8%
Communication/interpersonal skills	8.6%
Total quality management	7.7%
Courses leading to licensure	5.5%
Statistical process control	4.9%
English as a Second Language	3.5%
Other	3.5%

Source: League for Innovation in the Community College, 1992

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Top Five "Hot Programs" Reported by Community College Administrators: 1994

Program Name	Average Starting Salary
Dental hygiene	$29,560
Nuclear medicine technician	$26,625
Nursing	$25,895
Physical therapy assistant	$25,699
Robotics / automated manufacturing	$25,033

Source: AACC Hot Programs Survey, 1994

- Community colleges confer more than 400,000 degrees each year.
- Community colleges offer programs that place high quality graduates in some of the most sought-after professions of the modern workplace.
- In 1992, 96 percent of community colleges provided workforce training programs for business and industry employers in their communities, including programs in workplace literacy and English as a Second Language.

Median Incomes of Adults Aged 18 or Older by Highest Level of Educational Attainment: 1992

Highest Degree Attained	Earnings
No H.S. degree	$12,809
H.S. graduate	$18,737
Some college	$19,666
Associate degree	$24,398
Bachelor's degree	$32,629
Master's degree	$40,368
Doctorate	$54,904
Professional degree	$74,560

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1994

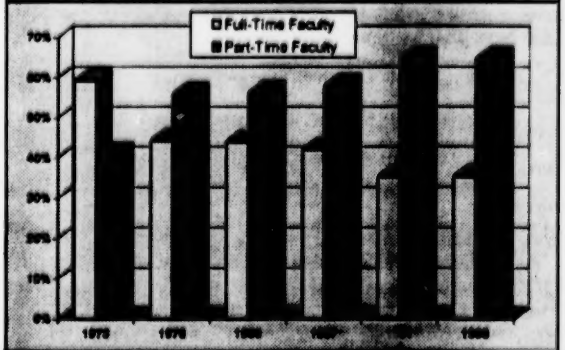
How Community Colleges Do What They Do

Community College Staff

A prominent trend among community colleges in the last 20 years is the growing use of part-time faculty. Many instructors are working professionals who provide practical insights and real-world observations. Use of part-time faculty also allows community colleges to keep tuition low in the face of funding cutbacks. This, in turn, helps two-year institutions fulfill their primary mission of maximizing access to higher education.

- Of community college faculty members, 65 percent serve part-time.
- Women made up 42 percent of community college faculty nationwide, compared to 29 percent at four-year institutions during the 1991–92 academic year.

Employment Status of Community College Faculty: 1973 to 1993



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

Median Annual Salaries of Selected Community College Administrators:	
Title 1994	Median
CEO for System	$97,553
CEO for Single Institution	$88,398
Executive Vice President	$74,616
Chief Academic Officer	$67,669
Chief Administrative Officer	$64,896

Source: 1993-94 Administrative Compensation Survey (CUPA), 1994

Governance

The nation's public community colleges are governed by over 600 boards of trustees. Most of the 6,000 board members are elected or appointed to office and serve as volunteers without compensation. In 27 states, public two-year colleges are governed by local boards of trustees. State boards govern in 17 states, and five states have state boards governing some colleges and local boards governing others.

- In states with local governing boards, 38 percent of the board members have served from two to five years, 22 percent for one year or less, 21 percent from six to 10 years, 10 percent from 11 to 15 years, and nine percent for 16 or more years.
- Sixty-seven percent of local board members are men and 33 percent are women. Their backgrounds are 84 percent Caucasian, nine percent African American, three percent Hispanic, one percent Asian American, and one percent Native American. In age, 36 percent are 60 years or older, 31 percent are 50 to 59, 21 percent are 40 to 49, and 12 percent are younger than 40.
- Community college board members come from all walks of life. Most are professionals or owners and managers of business and industry.

Expenditures

The bottom line for community colleges is how they serve their students and communities. Yet community colleges cannot forget the other bottom line—making sure expenditures do not exceed revenues.

Part of serving the community is ensuring that the state and local tax dollars supporting community colleges are well spent. Their dependence on local sources makes financial accountability even more important than at four-year institutions, which draw on more remote sources like federal funding and foundation gifts. However, because mission, funding, and

Community College Revenue Sources: 1992	
State government	46.3%
Tuition and fees	19.9%
Local governments	17.8%
Sales and services	7.2%
Federal government	5.0%
Other sources	2.8%
Private gifts, grants and contracts	0.9%
Endowment income	0.1%

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

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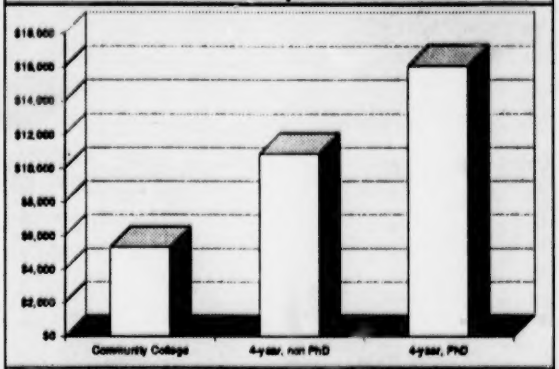
Public Community College Expenditures and Revenues per FTE: 1993



Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

accountability are tied to the community, most community colleges enjoy high approval among local residents.

Further, community college expenditures illustrate their emphasis on teaching and learning over research. Community colleges are generally controlled by states, accountable to local communities, and devoted to the surrounding population.

❖ In the 1992 fiscal year, institutions of higher education spent $156 billion overall. The current fund expenditures for community colleges totaled just over $18.8 billion or 12.1 percent of the total.

Average Annual Tuition and Required Fees: 1992–93

Public	Community colleges	$1,114
	Four-year colleges	$2,543
Private	Community colleges	$6,343
	Four-year colleges	$10,994

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, 1994

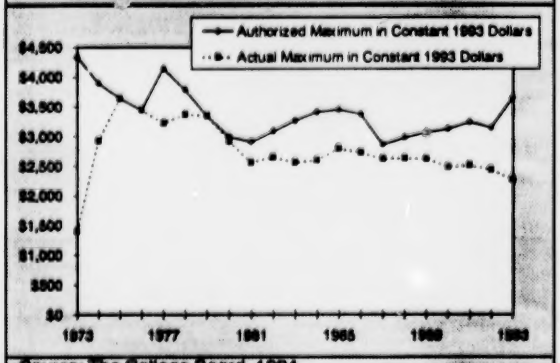
Investing in a Community College Education

Tuition

Accessibility has long been a community college keystone, and the colleges strive constantly to keep tuition costs affordable to all Americans. The average cost of a full year's community college tuition is roughly half that of a public four-year college.

❖The rate of tuition increase has been slower in community colleges than in four-year colleges.

Authorized and Actual Pell Grant Maximum Awards: 1973 to 1993



Source: The College Board, 1994

Financial Aid

Student financial aid is fundamental to equal educational opportunity. However, since many community college students are older, self-supporting, and attend less costly institutions on a part-time basis, fewer receive financial aid awards than in other sectors, despite a real need.

- Almost 30 percent of community college students receive financial aid through Pell grants, student loans, and/or college work-study programs.

Community College Students Receiving Aid by Type: 1989-90	
Any Aid	27.6%
Pell Grants	12.8%
State Aid	7.9%
All Loans	5.1%
Work Study	1.3%

Source: NPSAS Data System, 1989-90

Percentage of Federal Financial Aid Program Dollars Received by Public Community College Students: 1992-93	
Federal Pell Grants	36.6%
Federal Campus Based Aid	9.7%
Stafford Loan Program	6.4%
SLS Program	5.6%
PLUS Program	3.7%

Source: The College Board, 1994

Take a Closer Look . . .

Order AACC's new statistical book, *National Profile of Community Colleges: Trends & Statistics, 1995–96*. Filled with charts and graphs on the growth of community colleges, student and staff characteristics, outcomes, funding, governance, and expenditures, this first-of-its-kind volume provides complete information in an easily understood format.

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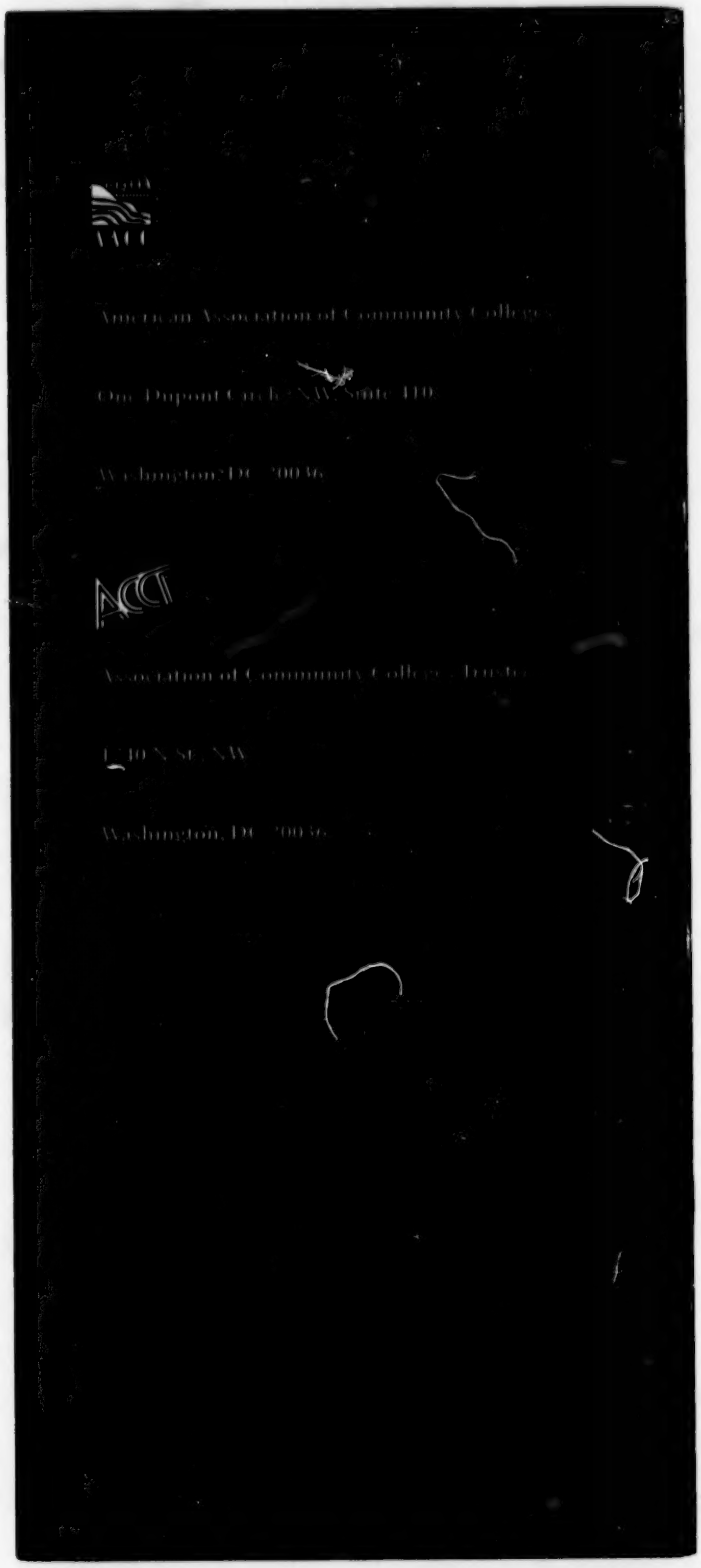

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